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CABINET MEETING

Devoted to Discussion of Measures for National Defense.

THE MAINE COURT OF INQUIRY

Expected to Report This Week, Yet It May Be Delayed Much Longer—Nothing at Hand to Indicate What Will Be the Nature of the Findings of the Court—The Members of That Body Sailed From Havana for Key West, Early Times at the War and Navy Departments—The Ordnance Bureau Rushing Matters—Emperor Francis Joseph's Efforts on Behalf of Spain Do Not Give the Administration Any Concern.

WASHINGTON, March 15.—"THE GENERAL EXPECTATION OF THE MEMBERS OF THE CABINET," SAID ONE OF THEM AFTER THE MEETING TO-DAY, "IS THAT SOME REPORT WILL BE RECEIVED DURING THE PRESENT WEEK FROM THE COURT OF INQUIRY EXAMINING INTO THE CAUSE OF THE MAINE EXPLOSION."

"YET," HE ADDED, "IT WOULD NOT BE SURPRISING TO US IF THE REPORT SHOULD BE DELAYED FOR A LONGER TIME. WE HAVE NOTHING ON WHICH TO BASE THIS HOPE THAT I KNOW OF, ONLY THE FEELING SEEMS GENERAL THAT WHAT I HAVE SAID WILL BE THE CASE. THERE IS NOTHING AT HAND AS YET TO INDICATE WHAT WILL BE THE NATURE OF THE FINDINGS OF THE COURT."

"To-day, our time was occupied in a general discussion of the measures under way for the national defense, notably in regard to the acquisition of new vessels of war. We are keeping eyes on the two ships under construction for Chile and the Argentine republic, but it is not probable we can get them. If we can not obtain the ships, it is a source of satisfaction to know that Spain will not be able to get them either."

HAVANA, March 15.—The Mangrove, with the court of inquiry on board, sailed to-night for Key West. Captain Sampson, president of the board, assured the Associated Press correspondent that the decision to leave Havana was not reached until this afternoon after a consultation of the members.

The court has no prophecy to make as to the further duration of its sittings or as to when and where the findings will be promulgated. Captain Sigbee will probably remain here with Lieutenant Commander Walnwright to superintend the wrecking on behalf of the government. Chaplain Chidwick is expected to remain to care for any bodies that may be recovered. At least no orders had been received to the contrary when this dispatch was sent.

The court called upon Consul General Lee this afternoon to bid him farewell and subsequently Captain Sigbee said adieu to the court.

BUSY TIMES

At the War and Navy Departments—Allocation of Funds Made.

WASHINGTON, March 15.—This was another busy day in the war and navy departments. Secretary Alger was enabled to make an allotment of funds from the appropriation of \$50,000,000 which will greatly facilitate the work of the bureaus. These bureaus had not been able to conclude any contracts for the procurement of war supplies because no allotment had been made, but this afternoon the ordinance bureau was given two and one-half million dollars, and business went forward with a rush. It is true that this sum is already mortgaged under provisional arrangements, made during the past week, but with the assurance of more funds to come, the work of the bureau is now moving rapidly.

Secretary Long was exceedingly busy to-day, having not only to give a good deal of his time to the cabinet, to which he was obliged to return twice, but also being urged to see a great many persons with whom the department has or expects to have contract relations. Among the latter was Mr. Herreshoff, the torpedo boat builder from Bristol, Rhode Island. He turned two of these boats over to the department a few days ago, and the secretary's purpose in consulting him was to learn how much he could hasten the work on one of the boats remaining in his hands, which in ordinary times would require about two months to complete.

The secretary also spent a good deal of time at intervals during the day in consulting over the long distance telephone with naval officers in New York, and it is believed much of this consultation concerned the procurement of suitable vessels from among the auxiliary navy for war purposes.

Mr. Maister, of the Columbian Iron works at Baltimore, has notified the department that he will be able to turn over to it the torpedo boat Rodgers next Saturday. The Rodgers is a boat which smashed her engines in the midst of a trial trip about six months ago. It was necessary almost to replace the engines, but under the hurry orders from the navy department, have been deferred until another time. It is expected that the boat will be taken at once from Baltimore to Norfolk. The department has no disposition to waste time at this juncture in making trial trips, but knowing the boat to be of a satisfactory type, like her sister boat, the Winslow, and of good workmanship, according to the naval inspectors report, she will be accepted out of hand, as were the Gwyn and Talbot, last week.

The new cruiser Amazonas, according to present plans, will be manned entirely from the San Francisco. That vessel sailed at 6 o'clock this morning from Lisbon and will arrive in the Tyne about Friday. It is expected that she will divide her officers and crew with the Amazonas, placing Lieutenant Commander Arthur F. Naxzo, executive officer of the latter vessel. Without doubt the Amazonas will be better armed than the Amazonas, and it is expected that the San Francisco will convey her.

The torpedo boat Foote arrived at Jacksonville this afternoon. The Maestas sailed from Norfolk to Boston, where she will undergo some repairs made necessary by her long Atlantic cruise. The Brooklyn went up to New-

port News for coal. The Marblehead, which is taking on stores at Tampa, sailed to rejoin the squadron at Tortugas.

Judge Advocate General Lemly received a telegram this afternoon from Havana announcing the arrival there of the derrick Chief in tow of the tug Underwriter. It is expected that this derrick will greatly facilitate the work of wrecking the Maine.

The war department is greatly disappointed and annoyed at the dilatoriness shown by the contractors who have undertaken to construct the new fortifications along the coast. It is said that only one among the whole number has finished his contract on time. The department has been greatly embarrassed thereby in placing its guns and has been obliged to extend the time allowed these contractors.

The department has determined to not submit to further obstruction in prosecution of the work, but will do the work itself and refrain from entering into contracts.

AUSTRIAN EMPEROR'S CRUSADE

Among the Continental Powers on Behalf of Spain.

NEW YORK, March 15.—A copyrighted London cablegram to the Evening Post says: The general English comment on the Vienna news that Emperor Francis Joseph is leading a crusade among the continental powers on Spain's behalf, is that this was only to be expected from the family ties, the queen regent being an Austrian archduchess, while religious ties all encourage Austrian sympathy with Spain. Moreover, there is the emperor's well known dread of the possible future consequence of American intervention in European affairs.

All that is known in well informed quarters here suggests that both the Austrian and the German emperors would go great lengths to prevent actual war between America and Spain.

TORPEDO BOAT DESTROYERS

Offers of an English Firm to Sell Designs and Drawings.

WASHINGTON, D. C., March 15.—The agent in this country of the Thornycroft torpedo boat company, of England, Mr. Platt, has submitted to Secretary Long, a long proposition for the sale to the government of the designs and complete working drawings of the magnificent torpedo boat destroyers built by his firm. Predicting that the department would find it absolutely impossible to buy any of these craft in Europe at this juncture, Mr. Platt has urged the propriety of having the government purchase immediately a number of our shipbuilding firms to work on the construction of these boats.

The particular pattern submitted by Mr. Platt is that of the torpedo boat destroyer Fame, built for the British government. This craft, the type of those so strongly desired by the navy department just now, is of more than thirty knots speed and three hundred tons burden, large enough to be thoroughly seaworthy and carrying sufficient coal to run 4,000 knots at economical speed. This advantage is not possible in any of our boats, and its importance is fully illustrated by the difficulties confronting the efforts of the Spaniards to get their torpedo boat fleet across the Atlantic to Cuba. Based upon a number of statements from shipbuilders who have been approached on the subject, the department has satisfied itself that a number of these boats can be built in from six to eight months.

We have now under construction in the United States, four boats rated as thirty knots, but with the exception of the one built at the Union Iron Works, which is 60 per cent advanced towards completion, very little progress has been made in their construction. One of the boats is building at Horlan & Hollingsworth, one at the Gas Engine & Power Company, and one at Wolf & Sewickers, Portland, Oregon.

FOR FURTHER PROTECTION

Of the Larger Coast Ports Launches With Torpedo Outfits Suggested.

WASHINGTON, D. C., March 15.—Lieutenant Very, the representative of the Howell torpedo company, has submitted to the war department a proposition to supplement the defense of the larger coast ports, such as New York and Boston, by equipping a number of light draft steam launches with torpedo outfits. He urges that by the full use of this means of defense the harbors may be kept open for commerce up to the last moment, which would not be the case were reliance placed on the ordinary fixed mine and torpedo. Those torpedoes have a range of about two miles and start off at a speed of thirty knots. If the boats from which they are discharged are properly sheltered, and proceed in the afternoon. Very, it is believed, they would be valuable adjuncts to the steamers defense. The government, however, has heretofore regarded automobile torpedoes as proper instruments for naval use and is scarcely disposed to change policies at this date.

A good deal of encouragement was created at the navy department to-day by a report from the capital that a majority of the naval affairs committee is disposed to substitute six battleships for the three provided for in the pending naval appropriation bill. This number is supposed to represent about the normal working capacity of this country that are able at present to undertake the construction of battleships. The fortifications board began its sessions to-day in the war department. The proceedings are guarded zealously against publication.

The gunboat Annapolis has started home from the West Indies, leaving Curacao yesterday directly for Key West. She has a number of apprentices aboard, being a training ship and it is not yet determined whether she will be attached to the squadron. The torpedo boat Winslow arrived at Key West yesterday. The steel tug Samoset arrived at Beaufort yesterday morning and proceeded immediately on her way to Key West in the afternoon. The torpedo boat Foote also sailed from Charleston for Jacksonville yesterday. The tug Leyden arrived at League Island to-day. She will pick up a coal lighter and tow it to Key West for use in coaling the squadron. The Fern arrived at Key West last evening.

Naval Enlistments.

WASHINGTON, D. C., March 15.—The navigation bureau of the navy department is receiving reports of the results of the efforts making at the various recruiting stations to obtain recruits for the navy. Twenty boys have been received on board the receiving ship Wabash at Foster and thirty more will be enlisted in a day or two. All will be transferred to the training station at Newport. Owing to the limited accommodations there, however, the depart-

ment has not been able to progress as rapidly as it desires in enlisting boys. So far the Columbia is about 200 men short of her full quota of 402, but it is hoped that the necessary men, mostly firemen and coal passers, can be secured in the course of a very few days.

At to European Intervention.

WASHINGTON, D. C., March 15.—Not much concern is expressed by officers of the administration over the reported intention of European governments, at the instigation of Austria, to intervene between the United States and Spain in the settlement of the questions pending between them. So far it can be stated that this has taken no official shape, or at least no indications of such a design has reached the state department. What the attitude of our government would be if representations in that line were addressed to it by the European powers is a question that the officials do not care to answer in anticipation. The suggestion that the Spanish government has protested against the sale by Brazil of the two cruisers to the United States, likewise fails to cause any feeling of concern, the naval officers holding that there can be no question of the right of the United States to increase its navy at any time.

An Unusual Order.

PITTSBURGH, Pa., March 15.—Prof. John A. Brashear, of Allegheny, to-day received an order from the United States government for one hundred and twenty-five range finders, for use in the navy and on the land fortifications along the coasts. This order is the most unusual of its kind ever heard of. It will probably be doubled before long. Professor Brashear will double his force of skilled mechanics at once and will be compelled to run his shop night and day to complete the order within the short time allowed by the government. The equipment will cost \$14,000. Fifty telescopes of one and one-half inch diameter, for use on the sea coast defenses for sighting the enemy at long distances, were also ordered. All these must be completed within ninety days, mounted and ready for use.

Consider It Significant.

NEW YORK, March 15.—Dr. Tomas Estrada Palma, of the Cuban Junta in this city, said to-day: "I consider Mr. Quesada's presence at Vice President Hobart's reception to the Belgian prince in Washington yesterday, a matter of great importance. He was invited as the accredited representative of the Cuban republic, together with the Spanish minister and other members of the diplomatic corps. Mr. Quesada's presence, under the circumstances as an honored guest is very significant. It is a semi-official recognition of the Cuban republic. I have known that Vice President Hobart's sympathies were with the Cuban cause, and I am glad he has made that fact known in such a public manner."

Ex-President Cleveland's Expression.

PRINCETON, N. J., March 15.—Former President Cleveland was interviewed to-day by an Associated Press reporter upon the subject of the Maine affair and the existing relations between this country and Spain. Mr. Cleveland at first declined to express any opinion upon the matter.

Finally Mr. Cleveland, in a firm and emphatic fashion, volunteered this statement: "Though I have no wish to be interviewed, you may state for me that, in common with others, I think every patriotic citizen ought to loyally support the government during a period of trial like the present, no matter what exigencies may arise."

How Spanish Securities Stand.

LONDON, March 15.—Spanish 4s opened on the stock exchange to-day at 53½, an advance of ¼ over yesterday's closing price; but they soon eased off to 52½.

PARIS, March 15.—On the Bourse this morning Spanish 4s were quoted at 53½ against 53, the closing price of yesterday.

MADRID, March 15.—Spanish 4s were quoted on the Bourse here to-day at 75 against 76.60 yesterday.

Who S It He Had

MADRID, March 15.—The friends of Senator Sagasta, the Spanish premier, deny that Senator J. M. Ceballos, the general agent at New York of the Spanish trans-Atlantic Steamship Company, has visited President McKinley at the instigation of the Spanish government.

Spain's Torpedo Flotilla.

MADRID, March 15.—The Spanish flotilla, which sailed from Cadix on Sunday last, ostensibly for Porto Rico, will only call there for provisions, etc., and will afterwards leave for Havana. A second Spanish flotilla will soon start for Cuban waters, and will probably be stationed at Porto Rico.

Spain Buying Projectiles.

BIRMINGHAM, Eng., March 15.—The Kynochs company has already dispatched part of a large Spanish order for special projectiles standing 4½ feet high, the largest ever made by the Kynochs.

Received no Inquiry.

BERLIN, March 15.—The North German Gazette this afternoon denies that Germany has received any inquiry from the United States in regard to her attitude in the event of war.

A PATRIOTIC WOMAN.

Mrs. Thurston Dies With American Flag Clasped to Her Breast.

KEY WEST, Fla., March 15.—The American yacht Anita, having on board the body of Mrs. Senator Thurston, wife of Senator Thurston, and the members of the congressional party, who have been visiting Cuba, arrived here this afternoon from Matanzas.

HAVANA, March 15.—A correspondent at Sagua la Grande telegraphs that Mrs. Thurston died at noon yesterday of heart disease. Mrs. Thurston had been much affected at the scenes of suffering she witnessed at Matanzas, and especially in the case of the skeleton-like children.

Mrs. Thurston, conscious that her end was near, said: "I am not sorry to go to rest, but I am grieved that my own children will be motherless."

Mrs. Thurston has worn a small American flag next to her heart ever since the trip was commenced, and when she died the flag was clasped to her breast.

She was noted for her great humanity. When at Matanzas she saw a gaunt mother sadly embracing her dying child. The feelings of Mrs. Thurston were much excited by this sad sight, and probably this incident helped to hasten her end.

The congressional party had made arrangements to visit the hospitals of Sagua la Grande, but the death of Mrs. Thurston has changed all the plans.

CUBAN ELECTIONS.

How the Spanish Cabinet Looks at the Matter.

THE PECULIAR COMPLAINT

That It Makes Against the United States, Claims the American Squadron so Near Cuba and the Active War Preparations are of a Nature that may Exert an Influence Against a Fair Expression of Public Will Under the Autonomist Plan—Intimations That This Country is Friendly in Words but not in Acts.

WASHINGTON, March 15.—A statement which is believed to reflect correctly the sentiment of the Spanish cabinet in the present emergency was made to-day by a gentleman intimately associated with Premier Sagasta and Senator Moret, minister of the colonies in the Spanish cabinet. The statement is as follows:

"The elections in Cuba are about to occur and the government desires them to be as free as possible. Naturally, however, the insurrection will prevent many voting, and it is felt also that renewed insurgent activity coming at such a moment might jeopardize the successful working out of the autonomist plan."

Moreover, the attitude of the United States, in having a squadron so near Cuba, and the active war preparations in the United States are of a nature that may exert an influence against a fair expression of public will under the autonomist plan.

It is thought that if the United States were sincere in its expressions of friendship to Spain, even if it thought that autonomy could not meet every expectation, it should by friendly acts and not words, show this sympathy with the Liberal regime inaugurated in Cuba. If the Washington government made known indirectly to the insurgents that it meant to have peace in Cuba, and that peace in Cuba may be had with autonomous government under Spain, the insurrection would certainly die out.

IF LATER THE WEYLER PARTY WANTED TO INTERFERE IT WOULD BE TIME THEN FOR THE UNITED STATES TO TAKE ACTION. THAT ACTION WOULD BE THEN JUSTIFIABLE. NOW TO MAKE WAR ON SPAIN WOULD BE A CRIME, AND FOR THAT CRIME TO CIVILIZATION AND HUMANITY THE UNITED STATES WOULD BE RESPONSIBLE."

The foregoing statement was called to the attention of Senator Polo de Bernabe, the Spanish minister, and his views on it requested, but he maintained diplomatic reserve after reading it carefully, and said it appeared to be given by one thoroughly conversant with the situation.

CONGRESSIONAL PROCEEDINGS.

Very Little Done in Either Senate or House of Representatives.

WASHINGTON, March 15.—After the passage to-day of numerous bills from the general calendar, the senate began the consideration of the measure providing for a national system of quarantine. Little beyond the reading of the bill was accomplished, some demurrer discussion occurring on an amendment offered by the committee, but no progress being made on the general bill.

The house agreed to consider the bill for the relief of the legal heirs of the victims and survivors of the Maine disaster as soon as the postoffice appropriation bill, which was taken up in the house to-day, is out of the way. During the general debate on the postoffice bill, members eagerly took advantage of the latitude allowed in committee of the whole on the state of the Union to discuss various political questions, and the debate accordingly covered a wide range. Messrs. Griggs (Dem., Ga.) and Walker (Rep., Mass.) discussed the conditions of the cotton industry, and Mr. Tawney (Rep., Ark.), a member of the ways and means committee, replied to the speech of Mr. Johnson (Rep., Ind.), made some time ago against the advisability of annexing the Hawaiian islands.

AN EARLY ADJOURNMENT

Of Congress is Now Probable—Meets President's Approval.

WASHINGTON, March 15.—The Republican leaders in the house are preparing for an early adjournment and it is said that their course meets the full approval of the President. All save three of the appropriation bills have gone to the senate. The postoffice bill was taken up in the house to-day, and the appropriations and naval committees are working daily to get the last two bills, the general deficiency and the naval, into the house.

The action of the appropriations committee in preparing the general deficiency bill at this time is the best evidence of the intention of the leaders to secure an early adjournment.

The Democrats of the house generally favor an early adjournment.

West Virginia Matters.

Special Dispatch to the Intelligence.

WASHINGTON, March 15.—Representative Dovenor to-day introduced a bill with accompanying affidavits, to pension William W. Freeman, of Zinola, Doddridge county, West Virginia, at the rate of \$15 per month. He also presented the petition of E. L. Pigatt and thirty-six others, of Harrison county, for legislation to restrict immigration.

Mr. Dovenor to-day recommended the appointment of William W. McLaughlin as postmaster at Hyer, Braxton county.

Fifteen thousand copies of Senator Elkins' last speech on the Canadian Pacific railroad, a synopsis of which appeared in the Intelligence, are being sent out to applicants. Copies are being rapidly as possible, and are sent direct to individual addresses, when desired. The demand is heavy.

Recent Pensions.

Special Dispatch to the Intelligence.

WASHINGTON, March 15.—Pensions have been granted respectively, to Harvey H. Cox, Mountville, at the rate of \$8 per month, and re-issue and increase to Jasper Bonham, Patrick, West Virginia, from \$5 to \$8.

The "Wheeling" Will Transport Them.

WASHINGTON, March 15.—Preparations have been made by Director Watson, of the geological survey, for an extensive exploration of the geological, topographical and other features of Alaska. This will be done under authority of Congress, which appropriated \$20,-

000 for the purpose. Ten officers of the survey will be assigned to the work in prospect, viz.: George H. Eldridge, Arthur Keith, J. E. Spurr, Alfred Brooks, E. C. Barnard, W. J. Peters, Robert Muldrow, W. S. Post, W. C. Mendenhall and F. C. Schrader. The latter two are to accompany military exploring parties. In addition to the above named, eighteen camp men will be employed. Four parties are to be organized under the general charge of Mr. Eldridge. Seattle will be the outfitting point and the whole expedition will proceed there about April 1st. The gunboat Wheeling will transport the parties.

WASHINGTON TRAGEDY.

Grain Broker Shoots a Western Speculator—Bad Feeling Between Them.

WASHINGTON, March 15.—Dennis J. Canty, formerly a clerk in the interstate commerce commission, and later a partner with Herman Van Senden, private secretary to Secretary Carlisle in the last administration, in the stock and grain brokerage business, to-day shot and killed George S. Rice, a speculator, whose home is in the west, in front of the Ebbitt house, on F street, near Fourteenth. It is assumed that the killing grew out of some stock transactions and perhaps may have been connected with the failure several months ago of Canty and Van Senden. The firm was not a member of the New York stock exchange but did considerable business among the smaller class of speculators.

It is said that there had been bad feeling between the men for some time, and that Rice had threatened Canty's life. To-day while Canty was standing near the corner of Fourteenth and F streets in front of the Ebbitt house, he was approached by Rice, Canty's friends say, who made a threatening demonstration with a knife. Canty drew a revolver. As he brought it out Rice backed away from him, and when he fell pierced by two of the four bullets Canty had fired, he was about twenty feet distant from Canty. The latter was arrested and taken to the first precinct station.

Cabinet Meeting.

WASHINGTON, D. C., March 15.—The meeting of the cabinet at an earlier hour than usual to-day had the effect to suspend most of the active operations in the war and navy departments during the forenoon. It was not long, however, after the meeting began before some of the bureau officers of the navy department were called upon by telephone and messenger to supply information on the technical points, showing that the cabinet was more or less concerned in the situation.

Powderly Still Held up.

WASHINGTON, March 15.—The nomination of T. V. Powderly, to be commissioner of immigration, which was adversely reported, was considered in executive session for an hour and a half to-day. The nomination was not disposed of and the effort to secure confirmation will be resumed to-morrow. Senator Fairbanks spoke briefly in Mr. Powderly's behalf, and Senator Faulkner stated his position. Senators Chandler, Stewart and Butler spoke in opposition.

Had Health Leads to Suicide.

Special Dispatch to the Intelligence.

CHARLESTON, W. Va., March 15.—Miss Chloe Shrewsbury, aged twenty-one, committed suicide at her home at Malden, six miles from here late this afternoon. She was making her home with her aunt, Mrs. Thomas Shrewsbury, and no cause is assigned except that she had been in bad health for some time and has been fearing the return of another attack of typhoid fever. She left her aunt in the room down stairs, and went up stairs and shot herself in the breast, with a 38 calibre revolver. She was dead when her aunt and the members of the family got up stairs to her room. The Shrewsburys are prominent families in Malden, and also in Charleston.

Ohio Coal-Railroad Combine.

CLEVELAND, O., March 15.—It is said that since the senate investigating committee has concluded its work, coal operators openly admit that the Ohio coal-railroad combine is in active operation. It is claimed that every big operator in the state is a member of the trust. "The combine," said a leading coal operator, to-day, "was practically completed at the meeting here a number of weeks ago. It now controls the entire coal output in Ohio."

"All coal is delivered to the railroads at a stated price, and they assume the responsibility of all sales. It is the strongest and promises to be the most successful coal combine this country has ever seen. It is expected that other states will be taken into the combine when the time for such a movement arrives."

A Chilly Combination.

COLUMBUS, O., March 15.—The tri-state ice manufacturing association, in session here to-day is taking steps to extend its organization into what will be known as the Northern Ice Association, including all the northern states. It now only embraces Ohio, Kentucky and West Virginia. The purpose of the enlarged organization is to compete with the Southern Ice Association. A number of ice men from Indiana are here to assist in the re-organization. The object of the new association is to control the output, and regulate the prices of ice in the states that may be included.

Fatality at a Fire.

BALTIMORE, Md., March 15.—One man was killed and another probably fatally injured in an attempt to escape being burned to death. The blaze was in a "sawed shop" on the fourth floor of a tenement house at No. 232 Alameda street and was caused by the explosion of gasoline. Michael Serwinski and Bartholomew Valentine, Lithuanian tailors, found themselves hemmed in by the flames and became frantic with fright. The men crowded each other in the window and jumped together. They fell forty feet to the pavement below and Serwinski's brains were dashed out. Valentine landed on top of him, which accounts for his not being killed also.

Victor Woolen Mills Burned.

TROY, N. Y., March 15.—The Victor mills, of Cohoes, burned to-day. They are said to have been the largest woolen mills in the United States, employing over 1,000 operatives. The loss is between \$400,000 and \$500,000, covered by insurance.

Shot Dead in His Office.

DUBUQUE, Iowa, March 15.—W. O. Lavake, a prominent attorney, was shot dead in his office in the business center of the city at 5:30 o'clock this evening. Four shots were fired, all taking effect. Although the streets were crowded at the time the murderer escaped recognition. No arrests have been made.

A SPANISH VIEW.

Former Naval Attache at Washington Talks About us.

HE SAYS WE DO NOT WISH WAR.

Roasts "the House of Representatives," "Composed of Men Without Prestige, and of Little Education"—Praises President McKinley, Whose Authority He Adds, "Is Dictatorial"—He Makes Some Very Peculiar Statements for an Educated Spaniard—Is the Same Gentleman Who Was Recalled by His Government for Talking Too Much.

MEADRID, March 15.—Lieutenant Commander Sobral, the former naval attache of the Spanish legation at Washington, in an interview at Barcelona on his arrival there, is quoted as saying he is convinced that President McKinley, who is a correct President, and the government of the United States do not wish for war, "and will resist to the utmost the intrigues of the war party."

Continuing Lieut. Sobral remarked: "Thoughtful Americans also oppose war, which is solely desired by the adventurers and agitators who compose the jingo party. The majority of the house of representatives is composed of men without prestige, and of little education, who regard politics as a trade, and who would have already voted the jingo proposals if they had not encountered the strength of character of President McKinley, whose authority is dictatorial. The serious opinion of the country, composed of business men, dreads war with Spain, which they believe would be a veritable misfortune, as shown by the fact that the new Spanish squadron had hardly started for American waters when a panic seized all commercial and industrial centres."

"The jingo campaign is fomented chiefly by two American daily newspapers whose insolent language is a positive shame to America. It is evident that the United States intends Spain shall be the actual declarer of war."

Lieut. Sobral adds: "If the Spanish government decides to issue a national loan to build a squadron, the patriotism of the Spanish people who reside in America will impel them to subscribe a third of the amount, and they will give their money without considering the conditions of the loan."

POPE'S ATTITUDE

Toward Spain—Will Do Everything To Avert Hostilities.

LONDON, March 15.—The Pall Mall Gazette this afternoon, publishes a dispatch from Rome, which says there has been a recent exchange of communications between the vatican and Spain in regard to Cuba and the relations with the United States. The pope, it is added, is ready to do everything in his power to prevent hostilities. "Which might be fatal to the Spanish dynasty."

Continuing, the dispatch says: "The vatican has specially exerted influence at Washington and has tried directly and indirectly to dissuade the United States from plunging into war with Spain. According to information here, if the offices of the pontiff are accepted, he will propose that Cuba remain under the dominion of Spain, but that it be ruled on the lines of an English colony."

Philippine Revolt.

MADRID, March 15.—According to an official dispatch received here from Manila, capital of the Philippine islands, to-day, 500 insurgents were killed during the siege of Ballanao. The dispatch adds that the insurgent forces have not offered any resistance to the Spanish troops sent to the relief of the garrison.

INDESCRIBABLE SUFFERING

Of the Reconcentrados—Warehouses Fall of Starving Women and Children.

WASHINGTON, March 15.—Colonel Myron M. Parker, who was Senator Proctor's companion in his trip to Cuba, in an interview with a Star reporter to-day, said:

"You might believe, but you could not realize, the condition of the reconcentrados in Cuba. It passes the comprehension of a man accustomed to the usual phases of life. Their emaciation is terrible, their suffering indescribable. We saw warehouses full of starving women and children. These people have been forced into the villages and towns by the Spaniards, and the whole country where they lived has been devastated."

"In the ride from Havana to Sagua la Grande, a distance of about 300 miles or more, the country is the picture of desolation. For miles and miles the charred stalks of the burned sugar cane showed where the torch had been applied by the Spanish and the insurgents alike. At intervals are block houses occupied by the Spanish soldiers. Above each block house is a cupola, where a Spanish soldier is always on the lookout. If a reconcentrado attempts to go out from the village and cross the trocha, he is shot, and if an insurgent tries to come in he is treated likewise. The trocha serves, however, to prevent sudden dashes by the insurgents into the villages at night to burn them."

This Beats Klondike.

SAN FRANCISCO, March 15.—A ledge of gold bearing quartz has been found by men in grading at Seventh street in this city. This street is being cut through a bluff, varying from forty to fifty-five feet high, and about 300 feet long. Three years ago a tunnel was sunk through the hill to allow the laying of a large water main to the reservoir at Clarendon Heights, and low grade quartz was then discovered. The quartz which is now declared to show traces of gold, was uncovered by a blast.

Movements of Steamships.

NEW YORK—Arrived: Pennsylvania, Hamburg; Westerland, from Antwerp. BOULOGNE—Arrived: Rotterdam, New York.